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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Conventional disarmament on a regional scale

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/46/150.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 4 December 1990, the General Assembly adopted decision 45/418 entitled "Conventional disarmament on a regional scale", in which the Assembly decided (a) to welcome the report of the Secretary-General on this question (A/45/428); (b) to invite Member States who had not yet done so to convey to the Secretary-General their views on this matter; and (c) to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Conventional disarmament on a regional scale".

2. Pursuant to paragraph (b) of the decision, the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 25 January 1991, requested all Member States to communicate to him their views on this matter. To date, the Secretary-General has received replies from Chile, China, Finland and Peru. Other replies will be published as addenda to the present report.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

CHILE

[Original: Spanish]

[18 July 1991]

1. The Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations wishes to point out that any initiative for conventional disarmament on a regional scale must begin with a consideration of the characteristics specific to each region. Moreover, it must be preceded by confidence-building measures, such as those contained in the opinion of the Government of Chile appearing in document A/45/428, and must be based on a commitment on the part of powers outside the region not to introduce weapons which would constitute a disturbance of regional peace and security.

2. In addition, it must be remembered that conventional disarmament on a regional scale should be a gradual process leading to a balanced reduction in the armed forces of the region concerned in accordance with the principle of minimum defence capability, since each State must guarantee its territorial integrity and the peaceful coexistence of its citizens.

3. Furthermore, the existence of non-military factors which threaten or in some way affect the governability of States and the peaceful coexistence of nations, such as terrorism, drug trafficking, the foreign debt, the steady increase in poverty and the environmental issue, are elements which must be considered in the definition of a new order of international peace and security.

4. The Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations takes this opportunity to convey to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

CHINA

[Original: Chinese]

[23 May 1991]

1. China always attaches importance to conventional disarmament and holds that the drastic reduction of conventional armament should be carried out along with nuclear disarmament. Regional conventional disarmament, if carried out appropriately, can help mitigate tension and promote peace and stability in the regions concerned and have a positive bearing on other regions, as well as global efforts for peace, security and conventional disarmament. In the field of regional conventional disarmament, the focal point is Europe where high armaments concentrations exist. China welcomes the conclusion of the Agreement on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and hopes that it will be implemented as soon as possible by the countries concerned. Troops thus reduced should be disbanded and weapons, equipment and facilities thus reduced should be disposed of by means of destruction or conversion. They should be neither transferred or redeployed in other regions, nor sold to other countries.

2. Progress in regional conventional disarmament depends firstly on the specific circumstances and conditions of the region involved. In order to promote regional disarmament, both regional countries and the extraregional powers should strictly observe the United Nations Charter and the five principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence, respect the right of States to choose, in the light of their national conditions, their own political, economic and social systems, strictly adhere to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, respect each other, seek common ground while reserving differences, live in amity, treat each other as equals, have mutually beneficial cooperation, seek fair settlement of disputes by peaceful means without using or threatening to use force, practise restraint on armaments and military expenditure and not to seek an armament level that exceeds their legitimate defence requirements. In addition, States, big or small, strong or weak, are entitled to participate, on an equal footing, in consultations on and settlement of matters concerning their region. Only by so doing can the conditions for regional disarmament be created.

3. In the course of promoting the endeavour for regional conventional disarmament, full consideration should be given to the following basic principles:

- Regions where serious military confrontation and high armaments concentrations exist should take the lead in concluding and implementing agreement on drastic arms reductions, establishing a military balance at lower levels of forces and eliminating the capability for surprise attack and large-scale offensive action;

- Various regions should, proceeding from their specific conditions and characteristics, at the initiative and with the participation of the States concerned, reach agreement and adopt measures on regional disarmament acceptable to those States on the premise of undiminished security for all;

- Regional disarmament agreements should not affect and jeopardize the legitimate security interests of other regions and States, and should conform to the basic norms governing international relations;

- Regional disarmament agreements should include fair, reasonable, effective and practical verification measures to ensure the compliance of these agreements;

- Extraregional States should respect all regional disarmament agreements conducive to peace and security and refrain from any activities harmful to the implementation of these agreements.

4. The formulation of specific regional disarmament measures and steps should be based on the specific conditions and actual requirements of the region concerned. In this connection, there does not exist any model applicable to all regions. The measures and steps concerned may include the following aspects:

- The States concerned may firstly enhance dialogue and consultations and adopt practical measures bilaterally so as to increase confidence, reduce tension, remove conflict and strengthen security, leading, step by step, to the negotiations on and formulations of regional disarmament measures and agreements;

- Confidence-building measures and measures concerning the exchange of and openness and transparency in objective information on military matters suitable to conditions of various States of a region may be formulated and adopted through voluntary consultations so as to lay foundations for regional conventional disarmament;

- Appropriate actions in the field of conventional disarmament may be taken by the States concerned unilaterally or by agreement to ensure that their armaments are used solely for defensive purpose;

- Without compromising the legitimate defensive capabilities of various States, while fully taking into account their weapons manufacturing and production capacity, the possibility of working out specific measures concerning reasonable regulation and restriction of weapon transfers should be explored;

- In the course of regional disarmament, existing regional mechanisms should be used as much as possible and the role of United Nations Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament should be brought into play;

- Nuclear-weapon-free zones and zones free from weapons of mass destruction may be established according to the actual conditions of a region through consultations and by voluntary agreement of the States concerned in the region, because this can help promote the process of regional conventional disarmament.

5. In order to create conditions for regional conventional disarmament, big extraregional powers should take the following steps:

- Nuclear-weapon States should undertake not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and undertake not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States and nuclear-weapon-free zones;

- States that have deployed nuclear weapons abroad should withdraw these weapons to their own territories;

- Forces abroad should be withdrawn and military bases on foreign soil dismantled;

- The super-Powers should cease all forms of arms race and take the lead in taking disarmament actions and especially in reducing their nuclear forces and their naval and sea military forces with long-range fighting capabilities.

FINLAND

[Original: English]

[25 April 1991]

1. For Finland as a European State experience gained in Europe is a natural point of departure in deliberations concerning regional disarmament.

2. The CSCE Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Stockholm (1984-86) laid the groundwork for negotiations on arms reductions by enhancing openness and transparency in questions related to military activities in Europe.

3. The document adopted in 1990 in the CSCE negotiations on CSBMs in Vienna expands the measures agreed upon in Stockholm. The participating States agreed on an annual exchange of detailed military information on the command organizations and the formations as well as units of land and air forces. Agreement was also reached on new types of measures for risk reduction. It was further agreed that annual implementation assessment meetings will be arranged to discuss the implementation of agreed CSBMs and that a communication network between the participating States will be set up.

4. The Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe negotiated within the CSCE process by 22 participating States, members either of NATO or the Warsaw Pact, is of great importance to European security. The Treaty reduces the risk of surprise attack as well as the possibilities to launch large-scale military operations. Finland, though not a signatory of the Treaty, welcomes the outcome and calls for swift removal of the ratification and implementation of the Treaty.

5. Even after the CFE Treaty is implemented, considerable military power will be maintained in Europe. Therefore, Finland considers that there is still room for further reductions in conventional armed forces in Europe. Finland finds it necessary that CSBMs will be developed also in the future alongside reductions of conventional armed forces.

6. Due to political developments the negotiations on arms reductions in Europe will not, indeed cannot, continue between military alliances. Finland stresses the indivisibility of security. All European States should be able to participate in negotiations which affect all of Europe.

7. According to the Charter of Paris for a New Europe adopted at the CSCE Paris Summit in 1990, the participating States will strive for new negotiations on disarmament and confidence- and security-building open to all the 34 participating States, due to begin after the CSCE Helsinki Follow-up Meeting in 1992. This process should cover arms reductions as well as CSBMs.

8. While recognizing that regions may greatly differ in their political characteristics, Finland regards the results achieved in Europe since the mid-1970s and especially in the last few years as instructive in many respects. CSBMs, sometimes considered marginal compared to disarmament "proper", have indeed paved the way for the latter. There should be no reason why political will for such modest beginnings could not be summoned in other regions if it could be summoned in Europe, then bitterly divided into two antagonistic blocs.

9. Encouraging processes in some regions in addition to Europe, are already under way. Finland considers it indispensable that they be given every incentive to thrive.

10. The Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations avails himself of this opportunity to renew to His Excellency the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of his highest consideration.

PERU

[Original: Spanish]

[18 July 1991]

1. Within its foreign policy in respect of disarmament and international security, the Government of Peru attaches special importance to conventional disarmament and its relation to regional processes.

2. In recent years, Peru has given concrete demonstrations of its active participation in this area, since it is Peru that traditionally introduces the resolution on conventional disarmament on a regional scale, which is sponsored by a large number of States, and since Peru also supports other United Nations resolutions on this important aspect of the process of general and complete disarmament.

3. The Government of Peru considers that no significant progress has been made to date in the multilateral sphere as such, and therefore feels that the dynamic developments in relations between the super-Powers, as well as the new configuration in Europe, should also be reflected in multilateral disarmament negotiations.

4. It remains abundantly clear that so-called "military capabilities" are continuing to increase, engendering the recurrent phenomenon of "incremental proliferation" in various parts of the world, and that there is no sign of any definitive end to the process or of any serious intention to halt it; this situation constitutes a threat to international peace and security.

5. In the area of "new military capabilities", we should bear in mind the option relating to a kind of "refuge" which is being offered to a number of countries, including some developing countries, as a means of dealing with unfair and harmful competition, and which entails concomitant social and economic phenomena having a particular impact on third world countries.

6. Recent world developments are having a substantial and complicated impact on "collateral costs of disarmament", particularly in respect of the dismantling of the military apparatus and industries and the consequent idle capacity and diversion of human resources and related activities; this should be taken into account in evaluating and analysing the processes to be implemented in order to arrive at a global estimate of such costs.

7. In this respect, Peru will continue to develop and support a methodical, rational and global approach to the military and non-military aspects of disarmament whether or not they in any way affect the future of this process.

8. The Government of Peru believes that negotiations for the solution of the issue would provide the international community with a valuable opportunity to make progress on specific aspects of disarmament, arms control, security and development, promotion of cooperation and plans for global recovery. Such a

negotiated peace should serve as a model and a precedent for the future elaboration of an overall plan for peace and security which would be conceptually acceptable to the international community.

9. The Government of Peru also considers that progress in disarmament must respect the concept of the legitimate defence requirements of States and the particular characteristics of each region with regard to security.

10. Lastly, it should be emphasized, as on previous occasions, that Peru considers that now is the most opportune time to reopen negotiations on disarmament and to adjust them to the current international situation, so that they may become the best means of halting the arms race and, without prejudice to their global aspect, may be integrated into regional or bilateral processes, thereby furthering the goal of general and complete disarmament.

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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Conventional disarmament on a regional scale

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Page 6, para. 4

The last sentence should read

Finland, though not a signatory of the Treaty, welcomes the outcome and calls for its swift ratification and implementation.

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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the activities of the Institute (see annex I) and the report of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters in its capacity as Board of Trustees of the Institute (see annex II).

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* A/46/150.

ANNEX I

Report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the activities of the Institute

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), which has been in existence since 1 October 1980, is an autonomous institution within the framework of the United Nations. The Institute was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/83 M of 11 December 1979 for the purpose of undertaking independent research on disarmament and related problems, particularly international security issues, working in close relationship with the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

2. The statute of UNIDIR was approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 39/148 H of 17 December 1984.

3. The statute provides that the Institute shall work on the basis of the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament (General Assembly resolution S-10/2 of 30 June 1978) and that it shall aim at:

(a) Providing the international community with more diversified and complete data on problems relating to international security, the armaments race and disarmament in all fields, particularly in the nuclear field, so as to facilitate progress, through negotiations, towards greater security for all States and towards the economic and social development of all peoples;

(b) Promoting informed participation by all States in disarmament efforts;

(c) Assisting ongoing negotiations on disarmament and continuing efforts to ensure greater international security at a progressively lower level of armaments, particularly nuclear armaments, by means of objective and factual studies and analyses;

(d) Carrying out more in-depth, forward-looking and long-term research on disarmament, so as to provide a general insight into the problems involved and stimulating new initiatives for new negotiations.

4. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of paragraph 6 of its resolution 39/148 H, and paragraph 6 of its resolution 45/62 G of 4 December 1990, by which the Director is invited to report annually to the Assembly on the activities carried out by the Institute. 1/ The present report is for the period July 1990 to June 1991.

5. An account of the activities of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, functioning in its capacity as the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR, is given in a separate report (see annex II to the present document).

II. ORGANIZATION AND METHODS OF WORK

6. UNIDIR has a very small staff, which at present consists of a Director, a Deputy Director and two General Service staff. The Institute relies heavily on project-related short-term contracts to implement its research programme. This system of recruitment, which is geared to the research programme and designed on a project basis, permits recourse to and utilization of reputable expertise available both inside and outside the United Nations system. This method has also contributed to the efforts of UNIDIR to expand its relations and contacts with other research institutes and individual experts from different regions of the world. Full use is being made of existing United Nations services to ensure coordination, economy and cost-effectiveness.

7. Within the approved research programme, the Institute hires the services of, or develops cooperation with, individual experts or research organizations for the implementation of the programme. It approaches those whom it considers qualified to be engaged in the respective research projects, determines the framework of the research and subsequently reviews the manuscript at the time of its finalization by the author before its publication and dissemination. Groups composed of persons known for their expertise and experience may be established to assist in carrying out research projects so that a multidisciplinary approach and various schools of thought can be taken into account.

8. In each UNIDIR publication the procedure followed in the implementation and finalization of the research project is stated to make it understood that, although conducted within the research programme of UNIDIR and on its initiative, the contents of the publication are the responsibility of the author. Nevertheless, without taking a position on the views expressed by the authors of its research publications, UNIDIR assumes responsibility for determining whether the research merits publication and dissemination.

9. Voluntary contributions from States and public and private organizations form the principal financing of the Institute's activities. A subvention towards meeting the cost of the Director and the staff of the Institute is provided from the regular budget of the United Nations, in conformity with the provisions of the statute of UNIDIR.

10. During the period under review, the following countries and institutions have either pledged or paid in contributions to the Institute's Trust Fund, which are being utilized to finance the 1991 work programme of the Institute: Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security, Ford Foundation and Volkswagen Foundation. UNIDIR avails itself of the opportunity to express its gratitude to these countries and institutions for their contributions.

III. COMPLETED PROJECTS

A. UNIDIR Newsletter

11. The publication of the UNIDIR Newsletter was continued as a means of maintaining and developing cooperation among research institutes in the field of disarmament, international security and other related fields, and as a conduit for information to others.

12. During the period under review, four issues were published. The subject issues focused on nuclear non-proliferation (No. 3, September 1990) and on biological weapons (No. 2, June 1991). The two regional issues were devoted to research in Western and Northern Europe (No. 4, December 1990, and No. 1, March 1991). A special supplement in the December 1990 Newsletter was issued to commemorate the tenth anniversary of UNIDIR and included messages from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairman of the UNIDIR Board of Trustees.

13. The two remaining issues for 1991 will be devoted to naval and maritime issues and to economic aspects of disarmament.

B. Fellowship and internship programme

14. The Institute's regular fellowship programme enables scholars from developing countries to undertake research on disarmament in UNIDIR. The work of visiting fellows continued to make an important contribution. During 1991, the visiting fellows of UNIDIR are Mr. George Cooray (Sri Lanka), Captain Ruben Vicente Pina Saa (Venezuela) and Mr. Malamine Kourouma (Senegal).

15. UNIDIR also welcomed several interns and research scholars from Canada, France, Germany and the United States of America.

C. Disarmament and development

Strategies for conversion of resources from military to civilian uses

16. The conversion of the military sector to civilian uses has been the subject of research in some countries and for specific areas. This research project examines the adjustment process and the redeployment of resources, including manpower resources, from military to civilian purposes, looking at a number of considerations - political, economic and social - while ensuring that the security needs of States are not impaired. It recognizes that the strategies for conversion must be adapted to the various conditions prevailing so as to eliminate obstacles and difficulties. A global view is taken, bearing in mind the impact on international security and the world economy while, at the same time, noting that strategies for conversion must be acceptable to Governments.

Economic and social impact of resource allocations for military technology

17. This particular project seeks to define the interrelationship between disarmament and development through an examination of the impact and implications of spending on military technology. The financial and skilled manpower resources allocated for the acquisition and development of military technology at the global level are examined with a view to analysing its impact on the development process.

D. Research guides on the proceedings of the Conference on Disarmament

18. Under this project UNIDIR has completed research guides on individual agenda items of the Conference on Disarmament, identifying the issues involved, tracing the evolution of the discussion, the principal proposals made, the positions of individual delegations and so on. The research guides are intended for the use of diplomats and the research community as a reliable reference tool to facilitate the work of both groups. Moreover, such research guides fill an existing void since the proceedings of the Conference on Disarmament are at present not given much detailed coverage in arms control and disarmament publications and the press. It fulfils the mandate of UNIDIR to assist ongoing negotiations.

19. The project was undertaken in close cooperation with the Geneva branch of the Department for Disarmament Affairs. The first publication in this series was issued in April 1990 and deals with the negotiations of the Conference on Disarmament on a chemical weapons convention. The second publication, dealing with the nuclear-test-ban issue, was published in April 1991. Other publications on agenda items such as the prevention of an arms race in outer space will appear in the course of 1991.

E. The United Nations in disarmament and security

20. A conference entitled "The United Nations in disarmament and security: evolution and prospects" was organized by UNIDIR in December 1990. The conference examined at the level of senior policy makers, diplomats, scholars and others, the role of multilateral diplomacy within the United Nations framework in strengthening stability and security at the global and regional levels, reducing tensions, solving conflicts and contributing to disarmament and arms limitations in the context of the new approaches in international relations and evolving strategic doctrines. The proceedings will be published as a research report.

F. Disarmament agreements and negotiations: the economic dimension

21. The research project was conducted with the cooperation of the International Defense Economics Association (IDEA) and with the participation of experts, mainly economists, representing different regions of the world to consider such questions as the economic evaluation and perspectives of the INF Treaty, economic implications of a chemical weapons convention and the effects of a reduction of conventional forces on NATO and Warsaw Treaty expenditures. It also focuses on economic research in the field of disarmament. The research report will be published in 1991.

G. Publications

22. The research reports produced by UNIDIR are intended for publication and wide dissemination through free distribution to diplomatic missions and sales through the United Nations Sales Section and other outlets. In addition to research reports, UNIDIR publishes research papers written by researchers within the UNIDIR programme of work. They are distributed in the same manner as the research reports. The third category of the publications programme of UNIDIR is the quarterly Newsletter.

23. Under arrangements concluded by UNIDIR, selected UNIDIR research reports are now published in English by commercial publishers and are available for purchase through their sales networks as well as through the United Nations Sales Section. A similar arrangement has been negotiated for the publication of UNIDIR research reports in French.

24. UNIDIR publications during the period under review are the following:

Research reports:

(a) Vérification: la position soviétique, passé, présent et avenir, by Michael Kokeiev and André Androssov, April 1991, 145 pp. (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.F.90.0.6);

(b) Aerial Reconnaissance for Verification of Arms Limitation Agreements - An Introduction, by Allen V. Banner, Keith W. Hall and Andrew J. Young, 1990, 166 pp. (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.90.11);

(c) Peaceful and Nonpeaceful Uses of Space: Problems of Definition for the Prevention of an Arms Race, by Bhupendra Jasani (ed.), 1991, 179 pp., published for UNIDIR by Taylor and Francis (New York) (ISBN 0-8448-1709-0);

(d) Africa, Disarmament and Security/Afrique, Désarmement et Sécurité, Proceedings of the Conference of African Research Institutes, 24-25 March 1990/Actes de la Conférence des instituts de recherche africains, 24-25 mars 1990, Geneva, UNIDIR (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E/F.91.0.1);

(e) In Pursuit of a Nuclear Test Ban Treaty: A Guide to the Debate in the Conference on Disarmament, by Thomas Schmalberger, 1991, 132 pp. (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.91.0.4);

(f) Confidence-Building Measures and International Security: The Political and Military Aspect - A Soviet Approach, by Igor Scherbak, Geneva, UNIDIR, 1991, XV + 179 pp. (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.91.0.7);

(g) Verification of Current Disarmament and Arms Limitation Agreements: Ways, Means and Practices, by Serge Sur (ed.), 1991, 396 pp., published for UNIDIR by Dartmouth Publishing Company (UK) (ISBN 1-8552-1235-8), also published in French as La vérification des accords sur le désarmement et la limitation des armements: Moyens, méthodes et pratiques, par Serge Sur (ed.), 1991, 406 pp., Geneva, UNIDIR (United Nations publication; Sales No. GV.F.91.0.9);

Research papers:

(h) Science and Technology: Between Civilian and Military Research and Development - Armaments and Development at Variance, by Marek Thee, UNIDIR, Research Paper No. 7, November 1990, 23 pp. (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.90.0.14);

(i) Esquisse pour un nouveau paysage européen, by Eric Remacle, UNIDIR, Research Paper No. 8, October 1990, 178 pp. (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.F.91.0.2);

(j) The Third Review of the Biological Weapons Convention: Issues and Proposals, by Josef Goldblat and Thomas Bernauer, UNIDIR, Research Paper No. 9, April 1991, Geneva, UNIDIR, 78 pp. (United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.91.0.5);

UNIDIR Newsletters:

(k) UNIDIR Newsletter, vol. 3, No. 3, September 1990, "Nuclear Non-Proliferation/La non-prolifération nucléaire", 44 pp.;

(l) UNIDIR Newsletter, vol. 3, No. 4, December 1990, "Research in Western and Northern Europe (I)/La recherche en Europe de l'Ouest et en Europe du Nord (I)", 72 pp.;

(m) UNIDIR Newsletter, special issue, UNIDIR Tenth Anniversary/Numéro hors série, UNIDIR 10ème anniversaire, 16 pp.;

(n) UNIDIR Newsletter, vol. 4, No. 1, March 1991, "Research in Western and Northern Europe (II)/La recherche en Europe de l'Ouest et en Europe du Nord (II)", 72 pp.;

(o) UNIDIR Newsletter, vol. 4, No. 2, June 1991, "Biological Weapons/Les armes biologiques", 40 pp.

IV. CURRENT ACTIVITIES

A. National concepts of security

25. The project on national concepts of security of States has been a regular feature of the UNIDIR work programme for several years. The original intent was to publish a series of concise studies of 30 to 40 pages each, prepared by experts from the respective States and presenting the basic features of the security concepts of those States. Keeping within that format, UNIDIR has published, in chronological order, studies on the national concepts of security of Yugoslavia, Belgium, Austria, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and China.

26. Conducted in a systematic way, such a series can greatly promote the understanding of national policies and facilitate the appreciation of specific conduct by States in a more general context. It could also explain some of the difficulties encountered in the course of disarmament negotiations. A globally shared objective, such as general and complete disarmament under effective international control, is adapted in various ways to conform with diverse national security approaches, depending on each State's perceived security interests.

27. UNIDIR has now revised and expanded the format and structure of these monographs to ensure that they attain the objectives of the project without being entirely descriptive. Research reports on a number of countries are being undertaken with the cooperation of qualified authors who participated in a workshop organized by UNIDIR in 1989 to discuss research methodology and the different approaches to their tasks.

B. Disarmament: problems related to outer space

28. This is the third of the UNIDIR research projects in the area of the prevention of an arms race in outer space. It addresses the subject of international cooperation in the non-military uses of outer space and the international security implications of specific problems, such as environmental risks, problems of dual-purpose technology and the uses of satellite information. The project is being carried out by a research consultant with the assistance of a group of experts.

C. Computerized information and documentation database service

29. The computerized disarmament information and documentation database service has elaborated a special software programme for a research institute database. One of the first products of the Research Institute's database is the publication of an updated and revised version of the 1982 UNIDIR publication "Repertory of Disarmament Research", which contains information on the activities (research projects, publications, etc.) of research institutes

throughout the world. The database, which is being regularly updated, is also highly beneficial to UNIDIR efforts in maintaining and developing cooperation among research institutes and permits quick reference to ongoing activities in the field of disarmament research. It is envisaged, in coordination with the Department for Disarmament Affairs, to expand the database gradually so that it encompasses some of the major issues of arms limitation and disarmament. This would be done on a step-by-step basis, first with the gathering of bibliographical information, to be followed with the incorporation of actual texts of agreements and proposals. The issue of verification of arms limitation and disarmament agreements would be the first to be developed and would facilitate the implementation of the UNIDIR verification research programme.

30. The entire system has been designed in such a way that the expansion described above can be implemented through relatively minor changes (i.e. addition of software modules and bigger memory computers) in the present software and hardware configuration. It also envisages in the future the retrieval of documents and other information through an on-line service.

D. Chemical weapons

31. The research project will analyse the ongoing negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a chemical weapons convention in terms of an effort to change the existing international regime in this field (Geneva Protocol of 1925, export controls and other arrangements). It will attempt to examine factors that influence the potential for international cooperation in this regard and will analyse strategies that have been or could be used to increase this potential.

E. Non-military aspects of security

32. Under this programme, a research report will examine global issues, such as the complex links between military and non-military threats to security, and will define a methodological model of non-military aspects of security that could be used as a tool for the standard and comparative assessment of regional situations.

F. UNIDIR tenth anniversary public lecture series

33. On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Institute, a series of lectures are being delivered at Geneva by outstanding scholars from other research institutes and by eminent public figures.

G. Conference of Latin American and Caribbean institutes

34. In furtherance of its objective of fostering cooperation among research institutes, UNIDIR is organizing a conference of disarmament research institutes in Latin America and the Caribbean on the subject "Concepts of security and disarmament in Latin America and the Caribbean and the status of research". Researchers, experts and academics from different countries in the region, and from the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as a limited number of specialists from outside the region, will participate. The proceedings of the conference will be published.

H. Verification in disarmament

35. This programme involves four activities:

(a) Follow-up of a project conducted during 1989 and 1990 aimed at elaborating a presentation of methods and practices concerning verification of the treaties and agreements currently in force. In phase II the objective would be to establish the same kind of systematic analysis with regard to the various proposals. It would commence after the conclusion of the first phase;

(b) Continuation of the research project on the technical, legal and strategic aspects of verification in the field of limitation and reduction of conventional armaments, in particular in the light of the agreement on conventional forces in Europe (CFE). The research project is being carried out with the assistance of qualified experts;

(c) Continuation of a research project to examine a great variety of existing and proposed international disarmament verification organizations, be they of a bilateral, regional, global, a unifunctional, multifunctional or omnifunctional nature. The report will also examine proposals as presented in the academic literature on the subject;

(d) Continuation of a project on high technology, surveillance and verification of arms control and disarmament, the objective of which would be to measure the impact of ongoing or foreseeable technological developments on the verification process. The work has been distributed among consultants selected by UNIDIR (the diversity of issues and disciplines makes it necessary to obtain on contract the services of several specialists).

I. European security in the 1990s - south-east Europe

36. Changes in East-West relations and political developments in Eastern Europe have fundamentally altered the parameters of European security discussions. Beyond the pan-European approach to security, subregional approaches are also relevant. The examination of specific issues in south-east Europe in the present context of European security is desirable.

The research project will be conducted in the region with academic specialists and policy makers from the countries in the region, as well as with the participation of a selected number of specialists from outside.

J. Regional approaches to disarmament, security and stability

37. In the wake of the rapprochement between the United States and the Soviet Union and the lessening of international tension, attention has been focused on achieving regional disarmament and security. A research project with broad participation would help to clarify the relationship between regional and universal approaches; examine initiatives of direct concern to all States in particular regions; place the discussion in its historical and geopolitical contexts and define a regional concept of disarmament and arms control that will achieve the security and stability of all States on an equitable basis bearing in mind the specific characteristics of each region. This project will complement the Institute's work on security of third world countries and the national security concept series.

K. Nuclear disarmament issues

38. Following the Fourth Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and in anticipation of the conference in 1995 to consider the extension of the Treaty, this project is intended as an update of an earlier report published by UNIDIR on the subject of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, taking into account relevant developments. It would examine the likely issues that will determine the period for which the Treaty is to be extended and set out the arguments for and against the Treaty.

L. Confidence-building measures for maritime security

39. This research project will focus exclusively on confidence-building measures for maritime security. It will analyse existing agreements and the record of international discussions on the subject and will assist in the investigation of what confidence-building measures are likely to become negotiable in the foreseeable future and their relationship to the law of the sea and to arms control and disarmament. The results of two seminars on the subject organized in Denmark and Bulgaria by the Department for Disarmament Affairs will be taken into account.

M. International law, disarmament and security issues

40. In the context of the United Nations Decade of International Law, the relationship of international law to disarmament is a relevant field for research. Unilateral measures for disarmament and security have been relatively neglected as an area of research, but it appears now that

unilateral measures of States can play a positive and concrete role. Conducted with the participation of a restricted number of specialized experts, the research work should (a) identify unilateral measures to be taken into consideration, and (b) define their nature and their juridical, political and strategic consequences.

N. Economic aspects of disarmament

41. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 45/62 G, the General Assembly requested UNIDIR "to prepare, with the assistance of independent experts, a research report on the economic aspects of disarmament" to be submitted through the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. The project began in 1991 with a consultant and a group of eight experts, the costs being shared between the regular budget and the United Nations and voluntary contributions.

42. It is necessary to analyse the economic impact of disarmament and, in this regard, to consider questions such as the following: What would be the consequences for the structure of military expenditure? What would be the costs of verification of compliance with the envisaged disarmament agreements? What would be the impact on civil and military industries? Which part of national budgets and national economic activity for military purposes could be reoriented to which type of activity? What would be the consequences for international trade, especially transfers of sensitive technology? What would be the impact on the development of particular States, notably developing countries?

43. Three different economic levels are being considered: the costs of disarmament at the microeconomic level of the firm and industry in terms of employment and research and development; at the macroeconomic level of the region and nation in terms of unemployment, inflation and the balance of payments; and at the international level in terms of patterns of trade, capital movements and the development assistance.

44. To answer such questions, one could construct different models that are based on alternative working hypotheses. Short-, medium- and long-term prospects are being considered in this context and the analysis will focus especially on periods of transition. A comparison between States with different sizes and types of armaments industries, with different levels of development and different socio-economic systems will also be necessary. As to the latter, the analysis will pay attention to economic systems that are, at a time when disarmament takes place, in a transitional phase.

V. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

45. The General Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, adopted resolution 45/62 G on the "Tenth Anniversary of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research" without a vote. The resolution, inter alia, recalled and reaffirmed earlier General Assembly resolutions on UNIDIR; recognized the increased importance and high quality of the work of UNIDIR; and called for contributions to the Institute. The resolution also requested the Institute to prepare a research report on the economic aspects of disarmament for the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

46. UNIDIR has continued to maintain close cooperation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, ensuring complementarity and coordination. It also continues to cooperate with other organizations and bodies in the United Nations system working in the field of disarmament and international security. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and UNIDIR jointly sponsored a meeting on "Safeguards" during the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in September 1990 at Geneva. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNIDIR co-sponsored a panel discussion on "Disarmament, development and environment, and their relation to the least developed countries" at Geneva on 3 June 1991.

47. Several aspects of the Institute's activities have contributed to the development of relations with other research institutes, such as the hiring of services of institutes for implementing the research programme and through the publication of the quarterly Newsletter. The Director and Deputy-Director accepted invitations to speak at universities and institutes with which UNIDIR has links. UNIDIR staff members have contributed articles to international journals on disarmament issues. A number of visitors from Governments, organizations and institutes were also welcomed at UNIDIR with some of them participating in UNIDIR staff seminars. UNIDIR continues to cooperate with the Geneva International Peace Research Institute in the organization of its annual course of lectures.

VI. CONCLUSION

48. UNIDIR gratefully acknowledges the administrative and other support received from the United Nations in New York and the United Nations Office at Geneva in terms of article IX of the statute of the Institute.

49. The UNIDIR fund-raising campaign continues to be pursued vigorously. However, the actual increase in voluntary contributions has been modest. In these circumstances, the continued receipt of a subvention from the regular budget of the United Nations in accordance with article VII of the statute of UNIDIR is vital. The mixed nature of the funding of the Institute envisaged in the statute is also a means of guaranteeing the essentially independent and autonomous character of UNIDIR while increased and more reliable flows of resources will ensure its steady growth.

50. The Institute continues to implement its mandate as contained in its statute. In a message on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of UNIDIR, the Secretary-General stated "Since it was established 10 years ago, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) has achieved wide recognition as a centre of excellence in disarmament research".

Notes

1/ For previous reports on the activities of the Institute, see A/38/475, annex; A/39/553, annex; A/40/725, annex; A/41/676, annex; A/42/607, annex; A/43/687, annex; A/44/421, annex, and A/45/392, annex.

ANNEX II

Report of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters in its capacity as Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

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I. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR ON THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR DISARMAMENT RESEARCH

1. In accordance with the provisions of article IV, paragraph 2 (i), of the statute of UNIDIR, the Director reported to the Board on the Institute's activities and the execution of the work programme.

2. The Board approved the Director's report for submission to the General Assembly (see annex I of the present document). The Board expressed its significant appreciation of the way in which the Director had continued to lead the Institute and its high regard for the enthusiasm, dedication and professionalism displayed by the Director and staff of the Institute. The Board noted that the trend of income from pledged contributions was generally upward but modest. Notwithstanding the energetic fund-raising efforts of the Director, the Board expressed the view that the annual subvention from the regular budget of the United Nations would continue to be needed in order to assure the independence of the Institute.

3. The Board congratulated the Director and staff of UNIDIR on the Institute's achievements and growing professional reputation after 10 years of hard work in the field of disarmament research. The Board took note of resolution 45/62 G on the tenth anniversary of UNIDIR, adopted without a vote, and observed that the resolution reflected the appreciation of the international community for the work of the Institute.

II. PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET FOR 1992

4. The Board considered the proposed annual budget for the Institute for 1992. It had before it a draft programme of work and proposed budget estimates and the comments made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the draft.

5. The Board was informed that, as at 18 July 1991, the estimated assured income for 1992 from voluntary contributions was as follows:

Donor	Status	Amount in local currencies		Amount in United States dollars
A. Convertible currencies a/				
Canada	Received			20 700
Finland	Pledged	Fmk	50 000	12 500
France	Pledged			275 600
	Pledged			23 300
Greece	Received			5 000
India	Pledged			10 000
Indonesia	Pledged			5 000
Iran (Islamic Republic of) b/	Pledged			1 000
Malta b/	Received			1 000
Myanmar b/	Pledged			1 500
New Zealand	Pledged	$NZ	7 500	4 400
Nigeria	Pledged			10 000
Norway	Pledged			50 000
Republic of Korea	Pledged			7 000
Spain	Pledged	Ptas	1 500 000	13 900
Sweden	Pledged			25 000
Switzerland	Pledged	SwF	70 000	47 000
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	Pledged			30 000
Total				542 900
B. Non-convertible currencies a/				
China	Pledged	¥ RMB	300 000	57 600
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	Pledged	R	300 000	167 600
Total				225 200
Total estimated income from voluntary contributions for 1991				768 100

Note: In addition, the following public donations were received and recorded in 1990 but earmarked for 1992:

	Amount in United States dollars
Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security	5 000
Ford Foundation	50 000
Total	55 000

a/ Based on monthly operational rate of exchange for the month of May 1991.

b/ New donor.

/...

6. The Board noted that in the proposed programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 1992-1993 1/ a non-recurrent provision of $440,000 is proposed as a grant representing the United Nations subvention to UNIDIR for 1992-1993. The purpose of the subvention is set out in article VII, paragraph 2, of the statute of the Institute:

> A subvention towards meeting the costs of the Director and the staff of the Institute may be provided from the regular budget of the United Nations. The actual amount ... may be less than, but shall not exceed, an amount equivalent to one half of the assured income of the Institute from voluntary sources in respect of the year for which a subvention is being requested.

7. The Board recommends a subvention of $220,000 from the regular budget of the United Nations for 1992. This sum, unchanged from 1990 and 1991, will amount to just over 47 per cent of the estimated costs of the staff concerned and will be $79,000 below the maximum amount of $299,000 that could be requested under the terms of the statute.

8. Subject to the General Assembly's approval of the proposed subvention, the total income for 1992 would be $1,563,400, including contributions in non-convertible currencies amounting to an equivalent of $225,200, and including the Fund Balance of $520,300 estimated to be available as at 31 December 1991.

9. The estimated total resource requirements for 1992 (in both convertible and non-convertible currencies) are summarized as follows:

	1992 estimates (United States dollars)
A. Operating resources requirements	
General temporary assistance	25 700
Ad hoc expert groups	328 800
Salaries and related staff costs	467 400
Personal service contracts	169 700
Fellowship programme (stipend)	30 300
Official travel of staff	106 900
Travel of Fellows	8 000
External printing and binding	10 000
Rental and maintenance of office equipment	4 500
General operating services	28 000
Supplies and materials	3 300
Subtotal A	1 182 600
B. Programme support costs (5 per cent of total extrabudgetarily financed convertible currency expenditure)	32 100
C. Operating cash reserve	149 200
Grand total A + B + C	1 363 900

III. WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1992

10. At its twenty-second session, the Board approved the following work programme:

(a) Subprogramme 1: National security concepts. This is an ongoing project involving a series of research reports on national concepts of security of individual States, including national approaches to disarmament.

(b) Subprogramme 2: UNIDIR fellowship programme. The short-term fellowship programme for research scholars from developing countries will continue. Three fellowships are envisaged for 1992. Should more funds become available in connection with this subprogramme, it is hoped to expand the

programme to include fellows from Eastern European countries in response to requests received by UNIDIR.

(c) Subprogramme 3: Computerized information and documentation database service. The special software programme for a research institute database elaborated by UNIDIR in 1990 is being regularly updated and expanded. It is planned to expand the database further, on a step-by-step basis, so that it encompasses some of the major issues of arms limitation and disarmament. The first issue to be developed in this connection would be verification of arms limitation and disarmament agreements so as to facilitate the implementation of the UNIDIR research programme in this area.

(d) Subprogramme 4: Maintenance and development of cooperation with and among research institutes. Two activities will be carried out under this subprogramme:

(i) The publication of the quarterly Newsletter of UNIDIR will continue as a means of developing, enhancing and institutionalizing relations with research institutes and individual experts while at the same time facilitating access by a number of States, particularly developing ones, to existing information on disarmament.

(ii) In furtherance of its objective of fostering cooperation among research institutes, UNIDIR plans to hold the third of its regional conferences of research institutes in the Asian and Pacific region. The conference will discuss concepts of security and approaches to disarmament in the region, as well as the current status of research in the area. Researchers, experts and academics from different countries in the region, including from the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, and a limited number of specialists from outside the region will participate. The proceedings of the conference will be published.

(e) Subprogramme 5: Verification in Disarmament. Two activities will be carried out under this subprogramme:

(i) There will be a second phase to the project conducted in 1989/90 on a repertory of methods, procedures and techniques of verification. The objective of phase II will be to carry out a systematic analysis with regard to the various proposals made in the field, as well as to current negotiations. It will include an examination of new opportunities in verification technology.

(ii) The research project on international organizations, monitoring and verification in the field of disarmament and international security will continue. The proposed report will examine a variety of existing and proposed international disarmament verification organizations, be they of a bilateral, regional, global, unifunctional, multifunctional or omnifunctional nature. The report will examine proposals emanating from both Governments and the academic community.

(f) Subprogramme 6: Chemical weapons. In view of the importance of the question of chemical weapons to the international community, UNIDIR continues its research efforts in this area. In particular, the project will analyse whether there exists interdependence of States in the field of chemical armaments and disarmament and whether interdependence is a condition for international cooperation in this context. The project will further identify favourable factors and obstacles to chemical disarmament and will provide a framework for considering future developments and proposals.

(g) Subprogramme 7: Regional approaches to disarmament. This is the continuation of a project started by UNIDIR in 1991 in the light of increased recognition that disarmament must take place at a global level as well as at regional and subregional levels. A research project with broad participation will help to clarify the relationship between regional and universal approaches, examine initiatives of direct concern to all States in particular regions, place the discussion in its historical and geopolitical contexts, and define a regional concept of disarmament and arms control by which the security and stability of all States will be achieved on an equitable basis, bearing in mind the special characteristics of each region. The project will complement UNIDIR's work on security of third world countries and the national security concepts series.

(h) Subprogramme 8: Confidence-building measures. This is the continuation of a project already started by UNIDIR, focusing exclusively on confidence-building measures for maritime security. A group of researchers representing a wide range of views and expertise will analyse existing agreements and the record of international discussions on the subject. It will investigate which confidence-building measures are likely to become negotiable in the foreseeable future and their relationship to the law of the sea and to arms control and disarmament. The results of two seminars on the subject organized in Denmark and Bulgaria in 1990 by the Department for Disarmament Affairs will be taken into account.

(i) Subprogramme 9: International law, disarmament and security issues. Two new projects will be carried out under this subprogramme:

(i) This project will look into the issue of disarmament as it has been addressed in the context of peace treaties and agreements related to the cessation of hostilities. A systematic analysis of the disarmament clauses and the mechanisms of verification of the relevant treaties, as well as their application and practice, will allow for lessons to be drawn for current and future negotiations.

(ii) This second project is a follow-up to UNIDIR's work on verification. It will consider situations where non-compliance could be established and analyse the options open to parties to a treaty in such situations. The research project, which will focus on treaties in force, will examine the nature of possible violations, their gravity, their consequences mainly in terms of

security and establish, on that basis, reactions or sanctions that appear more appropriate. It will also lead to suggestions and proposals on the application and fulfilment of disarmament treaties.

(j) Subprogramme 10: Strategic doctrines. Following the transformation of the East-West division, the dramatic political changes in Europe and the new disarmament agreements that have been reached, there has been a radical rethinking of established strategic doctrines based on obsolete perceptions. In order to carry out a rigorous analysis of new emerging concepts and their feasibility as strategic doctrines enhancing common security and to expand discussions to a global scale, UNIDIR will convene a symposium of policy makers, military experts, diplomats and academics from different countries. The proceedings of the meeting will be published.

(k) Subprogramme 11: International security issues. Two activities are envisaged under this subprogramme:

(i) The special security problems of States with small populations and areas have been acknowledged to be quite distinct. This research project will examine the special vulnerabilities of small States and thereafter attempt to develop relevant concepts of security for them. The research will be comparative in character and would also begin with a definition and classification of small States and the threats to their security.

(ii) A pan-European security process seems to have been set in motion, particularly after the signature, in November 1990, of the CFE Treaty and the Charter of Paris. Nevertheless, new challenges are arising. This research project will evaluate the prospects for European security, analyse the different types of security problems, examine the means at the disposal of the European States to deal with these problems, both at the internal, inter-State, and international levels, and develop ideas and suggestions as to how existing mechanisms may be used, strengthened and/or improved.

(l) Subprogramme 12: Disarmament: problems related to outer space. This project will devote particular attention to a thorough analysis of the implications that access to military space technology may have on arms limitation and disarmament in the context of measures to improve international security. The research will focus on three important and distinct aspects of space issues, namely, the spread of launcher technology; access to reconnaissance/navigation satellites and other space military support applications; and the development of space weapons. It will also examine the feasibility for new legal principles and institutional arrangements that may further contribute to international security, such as the possible roles that monitoring and verification can play as stabilizing elements of security.

(m) Subprogramme 13: Economic aspects of disarmament. Requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/62 G, this project was initiated in 1991. In order to analyse the economic impact of disarmament, the project will consider such questions as: What will be the effects of particular

disarmament measures on military budgets of the States concerned? What will be the consequences for the structure of military expenditures? What will be the costs of verification of compliance with the envisaged disarmament agreements? What will be the costs of destroying or transforming or converting the relevant arms? What will be the impact on civil and military industries? Which part of national budgets and national economic activity for military purposes can be reoriented to which type of activity? What will be the consequences for international trade, especially transfers of sensitive technology? What will be the impact on the development of particular States, notably developing countries?

(n) Subprogramme 14: Non-proliferation of weapons technology. Mechanisms such as export control and non-proliferation regimes, and suppliers' guidelines will be examined under this new project, as well as the possibility of arriving at multilateral agreements as a more binding arrangement. The project will take into account the technological revolution and the unstoppable spread of information in addition to the political factors involved.

IV. APPOINTMENT OF A NEW DIRECTOR

11. The Board noted with regret the wish of the present Director of the Institute to leave UNIDIR at the end of June 1992 to resume his duties with the Sri Lankan Foreign Service. As a result, the Board addressed, in executive session, the matter of a successor.

12. Article IV, paragraph 1 of the statute of UNIDIR reads as follows:

> The Director shall be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, after consultations with the Board.

The Board regretted that, owing to the timing of its annual meeting in July, it would have to discharge its responsibility under article IV, paragraph 1, of the statute by correspondence among members and with the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs. It stressed the need to identify candidates with the appropriate qualities, experience and standing. For purposes of coordination the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs was requested to be the focal point for consultations among Board members. The Board expressed the view that the selection process should be arranged to provide a smooth transition and that ideally both the outgoing Director and his successor should attend the Board's annual meeting in late June or early July 1992.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/46/6), sect. 5.

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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Conventional disarmament on a regional scale

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

Thailand 2

THAILAND

[Original: English]

[13 August 1991]

1. The defence doctrine of the Royal Thai Government is defensive in nature. Accordingly, the armed forces are allocated only sufficient budget to ensure its readiness and capability to protect Thailand's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence.

2. The Royal Thai Government has gradually reduced the percentage of the annual national budget allocated to the Ministry of Defense in recent years. In 1983, the Royal Thai Government appropriated 20.37 per cent of the annual budget to the Ministry of Defense. The budget allocated to defence decreased in successive years, to 18.71 per cent in 1984, 18.46 per cent in 1985, 18.01 per cent in 1986, 17.21 per cent in 1987, 16.91 per cent in 1988 and 15.58 per cent in 1989.

3. Thailand is also of the view that effective regional disarmament can only be brought about by the reduction in the size of the armed forces and military budget of the countries in the region. Moreover, external powers should cease to provide military assistance and arms to countries in the region.